

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 16-21.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication method that is executed by a transmission unit and a reception unit, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

packetizing sporadically input data to accompany ~~time~~ timing information representing their input timings;

transmitting packetized input data accompanying the ~~time~~ timing information from the transmission unit;

receiving the packetized input data accompanying the ~~time~~ timing information by the reception unit; and

outputting the packetized input data at timings based on the ~~time~~ timing information from the reception unit.

2. (Original) A communication method according to claim 1, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input to the transmission unit in a sporadic manner.

3. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission unit transmits the packetized input data accompanying the ~~time~~ timing information to the reception unit via a network.

4. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a transmission unit for packetizing sporadically input data to accompany ~~time~~ timing information representing their input timings and for transmitting packetized input data accompanying the ~~time~~ timing information; and

a reception unit for receiving the packetized input data accompanying the ~~time~~ timing information from the transmission unit,

wherein said reception unit outputs the packetized input data at timings based on the ~~time~~ timing information.

5. (Original) A communication system according to claim 4, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input to the transmission unit in a sporadic manner.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication system according to claim 4, wherein the transmission unit transmits the packetized input data accompanying the ~~time~~ timing information to the reception unit via a network.

7. (Currently Amended) A transmission unit for use in a communication system performing packet communications, comprising:

an input device for inputting sporadically input data;

a buffer memory for accumulating the sporadically input data, wherein the buffer memory is periodically initialized every prescribed time;

a timing data register for storing timing data representing input timings of the sporadically input data; and

a controller for periodically checking stored content of the timing data register at every prescribed time, ~~so that~~ wherein the controller performs packetizing of the sporadically input data stored in the buffer memory, ~~so that~~ and the packetized input data accompanying the timing data read from the timing data register are subjected to transmission.

8. (Original) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the prescribed time corresponds to a packet timing that occurs by a prescribed number of shift timings corresponding to bits of the timing data respectively, so that the input timings are represented by the bits of the timing data.

9. (Currently Amended) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the timing data register is a shift register for storing the timing data ~~consisting of~~ having a prescribed number of bits at every prescribed time corresponding to a packet timing.
10. (Original) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input in a sporadic manner.
11. (Original) The transmission unit according to claim 7, wherein the packetized input data accompanying the timing data are subjected to transmission via a network.
12. (Currently Amended) A reception unit for use in a communication system performing packet communications, comprising:
- a receiver for receiving packetized input data corresponding to sporadically input data from a transmission unit together with timing data representing their input timings;
 - a buffer memory for accumulating the packetized input data received by the receiver;
 - a timing data register for storing the timing data received by the receiver; and
 - a controller for outputting the packetized input data read from the buffer memory at timings based on the ~~time~~ timing data.
13. (Currently Amended) The reception unit according to claim 12, wherein the timing data register is a shift register for storing the timing data ~~consisting of~~ having a prescribed number of bits at every prescribed time corresponding to a packet timing.
14. (Original) The reception unit according to claim 12, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input to the transmission unit in a sporadic manner.
15. (Original) The reception unit according to claim 12, wherein the receiver receives from the transmission unit the packetized input data accompanying the timing data via a network.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a communication program which when executed ~~that~~ causes a computer to perform a transmission method for use in a communication system performing packet communications, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- inputting sporadically input data;
- accumulating the sporadically input data in a buffer memory that is periodically initialized every prescribed time;
- storing timing data representing input timings of the sporadically input data by a timing data register;
- periodically checking stored content of the timing data register at every prescribed time;
- packetizing of the sporadically input data stored in the buffer memory; and
- transmitting the packetized input data accompanying the timing data read from the timing data register.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~communication program causing a computer to perform the transmission method~~ according to claim 16, wherein the sporadically input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input in a sporadic manner.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~communication program causing a computer to perform the transmission method~~ according to claim 16, wherein the packetized input data accompanying the timing data are subjected to transmission via a network.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a communication program which when executed casues ~~causing~~ a computer to perform a reception method for use in a communication system performing packet communications, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- receiving packetized input data corresponding to sporadically input data from a transmission unit together with timing data representing their input timings;

accumulating the received packetized input data by a buffer memory;

storing the received timing data in a timing data register; and

outputting the packetized input data read from the buffer memory at timings based on the ~~time~~
timing data.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~communication program causing~~
~~a computer to perform the reception method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the sporadically
input data correspond to MIDI data that are produced and input in a sporadic manner.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium ~~communication program causing~~
~~a computer to perform the reception method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the packetized input
data accompanying the timing data are received via a network.

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